

NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Vicksburg District
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30 November 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE Release

Study Finds Levee Plan Best Option For Jackson Metro

Vicksburg, Miss... A four year study of the Metropolitan Jackson area recommends a comprehensive levee improvement plan for flood risk reduction along the Pearl River in Hinds and Rankin counties.

In 2003, the Rankin-Hinds Pearl River Flood and Drainage Control District requested the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District to perform a feasibility study of two flood risk reduction alternatives. The study included a levee plan and an impoundment plan with two lakes.

Since the inception of the study, the Corps and the Rankin-Hinds Pearl River Flood and Drainage Control District have jointly deliberated on the best approach to provide flood risk reduction to the Jackson Metropolitan area.

This study effort culminated in February 2007, with a preliminary draft report recommending a Comprehensive Levee Plan as the best economically feasible and environmentally acceptable alternative.

On November 4, 2009, the Rankin-Hinds Pearl River Flood and Drainage Control District requested further study of alternatives to include a one-lake with levees plan and a two lakes plan with variations to the plan already studied.

The US Army Corps of Engineers has concluded that sufficient studies have determined that variations of any lake impoundment or impoundments would not be economically feasible or environmentally acceptable. Therefore, in accordance with the provisions of the feasibility cost sharing agreement, the Corps has ended said agreement.

Any delay in moving forward with a plan to provide flood risk reduction; due to a desire for regional economic development in the flood plain, unnecessarily leaves the community at continued risk of significant flooding. The US Army Corps of Engineers is committed to working with local stakeholders to reduce flood risk in the Pearl River Basin. However, the US Army Corps of Engineers cannot recommend implementation of alternatives with significant adverse environmental impacts when an alternative exists to provide flood risk reduction with significantly less unavoidable environmental impacts.

The Vicksburg District stands ready to implement the recommended comprehensive levee plan to provide flood risk reduction to the cities of Jackson, Flowood, Pearl and Richland.

The study report and other material can be found at
<http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/pp/PRWS/index.htm>

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For more information or interviews, contact Frank Worley or Kavanaugh Breazeale at (601) 631- 5053/5052 or by cell at 601-831-5053/5606 respectively, or reply to this e-mail.

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